Rehabilitation Sciences  
MSc, PhD

The Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) is an interdisciplinary doctoral stream program that offers MSc and PhD degrees for students interested in researching issues related to rehabilitation. Our student body comes from a broad range of disciplines including speech-language pathology, occupational sciences and occupational therapy, physical therapy, biology, epidemiology, health studies, kinetics and more. Our faculty are among the most world renown in the rehabilitation field and also come from a broad range of backgrounds.

At RSI, we integrate research across scientific disciplines focused on understanding human function and participation in family, community, and society and its relationship to health and well-being. The academic activities of students cover the full breadth of rehabilitation sciences and the 100+ RSI cross-appointed faculty members are distributed throughout the University of Toronto, including teaching hospitals and research institutes. The program has 5 recognized fields: movement science, occupational science, speech language pathology, rehabilitation health services studies, rehabilitation technology sciences, and social and cognitive rehabilitation sciences. RSI is ranked #1 in North America for publications and citations for rehabilitation science, according to Thomson Reuters.

We offer:
- Full breadth of rehabilitation sciences covered in the academic program
- 12 collaborative programs
- Guaranteed minimum funding package* for full-time students
- Interdisciplinary research-stream training

*not including work hours (e.g., RA & TA roles)

Master of Science (MSc)
In addition to completing a thesis, students take 2.0 FCE**:
REH 1100H (Introduction to Rehabilitation Sciences, 0.5 FCE), REH 2001H (RSI MSc Seminar – Foundations of Professional Development, 0.5 FCE), 0.5 FCE in research methods and 0.5 FCE elective. Students typically finish this program within 2 years.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
In addition to conducting independent and original research that will form their thesis, students take 1.5 FCE:
REH 3001H (RSI PhD Seminar – Foundations of Professional Development), 0.5 FCE in advanced research methods and 0.5 FCE elective. Students must also complete a qualifying exam within the first 18 months of registration. Typically, students successfully complete this program within 6 years.

**Full course equivalent. A typical 0.5 FCE is over one term (13 weeks), meeting 1-2 times per week. A typical 1.0 FCE is over two terms (26 weeks), meeting 1-2 times per week.
Potential career paths

In 2016, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) tracked the career outcomes of 10,000 PhD students who graduated from the University of Toronto between 2000 to 2015. Below are some career trajectories of alumni from the PhD program in Rehabilitation Sciences (n = 41).

**Tenure Stream Faculty** 34.1%

**Postdoctoral Fellowship** 9.7%

**Adjunct/Affiliated Professor** 12.2%

**Hospitals** 17%

**Government** 2.4%

**Charitable - Health Services** 4.8%

Application Deadlines

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By the numbers

#1 in North America for publication and citations in rehabilitation sciences (Thomas Reuters)

125 number of graduate faculty

Alumni profile

**Tyler Saumur, PhD**

Graduated 2021

I was fortunate enough to be at RSI for 6 years and formed many great memories over the years. The Student and Alumni Networking Event is one of the highlights that I hope students can benefit from for years to come. My involvement in the Rehabilitation Sciences Graduate Students’ Union also allowed me to create great relationships with the fantastic staff and incoming cohorts of students.

I’m currently working as a Medical Writer II at Everest Clinical Research. As I continue to advance my career, I look forward to applying the amazing skills I developed at RSI and take on additional leadership and mentorship opportunities to support colleagues. There is so much advice that I would love to share with new students. Overall, I would suggest saying "yes" to whatever opportunities present themselves because you never know what may come of them. That also comes with the caveat of knowing when to say "no," which can sometimes be more difficult. Lean on your fellow students when possible, make time for yourself, and embrace the experience!